

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE:

1. President Ernesto de la GUARDIA Jr. had established certain rules for interviews by newspapermen. These rules were established because a Peruvian newspaperman¹ who interviewed de la GUARDIA had published as direct quotations from the President certain things that the President had told him in confidence. the Peruvian had attributed to de la GUARDIA statements detrimental to U.S. - Panama relations. The new rules are as follows:
 - a. A stenographer will be present and take notes at all conferences between the President and any reporter or correspondent.
 - b. Direct quotes attributable to the President must be furnished for review before being forwarded for publication. Interviews will be granted only on a basis of agreement with this.
 - c. The actual story need not be furnished, as the writer's comments are considered to be his own business, not subject to censorship. All quotations of the President must be furnished, however, and will be checked against the transcript.
 - d. The President does not wish to discuss the reduction of botellas which he has accomplished, or to compare his administration with the preceding administration. This is because they are both of the same political party, and the President does not wish to seek praise for himself by making former President Ricardo ARIAS, his fellow party member, look bad.
2. In addition, it was learned that references to the assassination of former President Jose REMON Cantera and to the failure to try those guilty are particularly irksome trial was certain within a few months and that the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the Panamanian Government were not to be blamed for the delay, but only the defense attorneys.

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1. Comment. It is possible that the Peruvian newspaperman referred to is Genaro CARNERO Chaca, exiled Peruvian Communist journalist, who reportedly interviewed President de la GUARDIA on 26 October 1956. In June 1956 CARNERO attended the World Congress of Journalists in Helsinki, Finland, after which he visited the USSR and Communist China.

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